Read Feb. 1.
C. H. dt.

Wheelock, Le. N., Dec. 14. 1854.

Mr. Le. H. Malcom
Cor. Sec. of Coms. on For. Miss.
Dear Bro.

Your note accompanied by the letter from the asst. Cor. Sec., Bro. Mills, came to hand about 3 weeks since. I give you, both, thanks for the favor. I was very glad to receive it, because it serves to continue & strengthen as the ties by which my heart is bound to that beloved institution, and also because it gives information in regard to its prosperity and more particularly in regard to the interest in missions felt by the brethren. I gladly answer, in order to do what I can to help to maintain an interest in the subject.

Shortly after your letter came, we were favored with a delightful visit from the Rev. S. Leighton Wilson. His report will doubtless give you much information, if published.

Since I last wrote to you the churches in this nation have been much blessed. You have doubtless seen in the Record and the Presbyterian notices of the work near Spencer Academy. The church there was organized in April last with 11 members, all, I believe belonging to the mission family. Now it numbers 70 or more. The work has entered the school. When Mr. Wilson was there one boy was received into the church and another

is hopefully pious so that ~~they~~ Mr. Reid has been able to commence a small boys prayer-meeting. It is thought that some of the rest are quite serious; we hope and pray, therefore, that this prayer-meeting may increase much in number and that many of those interesting youth may be turned to the Lord.

I have a letter from the Rev. L. L. Leopeland of Oct 31. in which he says, "Last Sab. I was on Blue among the cold people, had a very pleasant time and a profitable season. The 2 Sabbaths previous I spent among the Chickasaws, and received 21. persons to the communion, 8 at the Boiling Spring, and 13 at the Cherokee Spring. The two places are about 50 miles apart." This is in the field so occupied by Bro. Byrom, formerly by Bro. Watson. Within a year past a number have been received into Pine Ridge church from the boarding school there; nearly 30 also into Mountain Fork church 35 into Wheelock church and quite a large number, I cannot say definitely how many into other churches. Last Sabbath the Rev. Pliny Fisk ~~and my~~ native pastor of Mt. Lion church, and myself, as a com. of Presbytery organized a new church from a portion of Mt. Lion church, in a region where the first 3 members were received in 1851. The church consists now of 71 members and much interest ~~was~~ is still manifested. This work is extending into a district heretofore unoccupied by Presbyterians, and now there is a call in that district

from the people themselves for two Presbyterian ministers, and one or more teachers. The Lord is indeed greatly blessing this people. He can work and who can hinder?

You inquire how the late action of the Am. Board on slavery is received among the missionaries. Without going into details, I would reply that the present clerical members of the mission unanimously disapprove of it. Our position on the subject of slavery is well expressed in the action of the O. S. Gen. Assembly so often repeated. In regard to the Choctaw schools, their action was undoubtedly premature, to say the least.

You ask my opinion as to the influence of a missionary among the Indians prospectively an here, as compared with other countries. I do not suppose that the Indian "race is destined to exert a commanding influence among the nations." Yet I would by no means say that it is forever impossible. God only knows their destinies. Of course, therefore we are not to expect that the conversion of a tribe of Indians or of the race will be as important an event as the conversion of one of the great nations. But over against this I would set the following considerations.

1. The probability of producing a great change at an early day is greater in the case of small nations than of large. For proof of this, compare the work in the Sandwich Islands, in New Zealand

in Africa, and among the Indians, with the work in India and China. In the large nations Satan's host is strong and his fortresses strongly built; in the small tribes he is comparatively weak.

2. The Indians, among us, belong to our country and to it only as a missionary field. India has special claims upon Britain. China and some other countries belong equally to all. Moreover we owe a very large debt of good to the Indians for the injuries done them by the whites. These things, I think give them the first claim upon our benevolence. This consideration alone is in my opinion sufficient to overbalance the greater importance of the other nations in themselves considered.

3. They form a part of our own country, and everything done for their good will in time doubtless be for the good of the whole country.

4. God will take care of the influence of his servants in future ages. The direct results of David Brainard's labors are still felt and seen among the Delawares. But they are a small tribe. The indirect results, which, perhaps, he never thought of, are felt in all Christendom. In how many hearts has a missionary spirit been kindled by his Life. The Sandwich Islands are a small nation, but the great work done there has doubtless contributed much to preserve and increase the missionary spirit in the

American churches. Let American missionaries go forth among all the Indians, as well as to other nations and faithfully do their duty to them, and God can easily turn their influence into channels of the greatest importance

The other question, referring to the hope for immediate success in the salvation of souls, as compared with India or China is partly answered in the answer to the previous question. I will state a few facts more. Our Choctaw Presbyterian churches now number some 1500. The Rev. A. Wright who died March 1853 after 33 years faithful labor among this people had the privilege of receiving 576 persons to the church. The accession at Spencer this year exceeds, I think, the accession at any other station of the Presb. Board in any one year since its organization. But the Choctaws have been more blessed, I suppose, than almost any other Indian tribe.

I will be happy still to hear from you occasionally, and to give you such information as I can and also to answer any questions for you.

Yours in the Lord's work
John Edwards